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First Uruguayan records of Great-winged Petrel Pterodroma macroptera

by Sebastián Jiménez, José S. Abente, Adrián B. Azpiroz, Christian Savigny & Martin Abreu

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Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* comprises two subspecies, of which *P. m. gouldi* (Grey-faced Petrel) is endemic to New Zealand. The near-circumpolar *P. m. macroptera* breeds in the Southern Hemisphere, including the Atlantic (on Tristan da Cunha and Gough), Indian (Prince Edward, Marion, the Crozets and Kerguelen) and Pacific Oceans (southern Australia and northern New Zealand). Post-breeding, it disperses widely in the temperate south-east Atlantic and Indian Oceans, mainly at 30–50°S (Brooke 2004, Camphuysen 2007, Onley & Scofield 2007) with some reaching Antarctic waters (Montalti *et al.* 1999). The main pelagic distribution in the Atlantic is around southern Africa, where it typically occurs in oceanic waters and over the shelf edge (Camphuysen & van der Meer 2000, Camphuysen 2007). It is rare in the south-west Atlantic (Tickell & Woods 1972, Brown *et al.* 1975, Thurston 1982, Brooke 2004, Bugoni 2006, Onley & Scofield 2007).

Data on the species' occurrence in the south-west Atlantic are scarce, with scattered records for southern Brazil (Harris & Hansen 1974, Bugoni 2006), Argentine waters, the Falklands and South Georgia (Tickell & Wood 1972, Brown et al. 1975, Thurston 1982, Curtis 1994, Mazar Barnett & Pearman 2001, White et al. 2002, Chebez 2009). Some authors have highlighted the difficulties of identifying P. macroptera, especially vs. Kerguelen Petrel Lugensa brevirostris, so undocumented records should be treated cautiously, especially south of the polar front (cf. Mazar Barnett & Pearman 2001, Chebez 2009). Favero & Silva Rodríguez (2005) erroneously quoted Veit (1995) as mentioning P. macroptera as being a recurrent species at pelagic seabird assemblages in Argentine waters. However, the species mentioned by Veit was Great Shearwater Puffinus gravis and he found P. macroptera to be rare (R. Veit pers. comm.). Confusion probably originated through use of the Spanish name 'Petrel Pardo', which is applied to several species, including Puffinus gravis and Pterodroma macroptera.

P. macroptera was included in the Uruguayan avifauna by Cuello (1975) based on a specimen from La Floresta, dpto. Canelones, in July 1973, which Escalante (1980) reidentified as *Lugensa brevirostris*. Here we report the first documented records of *P. macroptera* in

Uruguay. On 24 May 2003 a specimen was collected by JSA at Solymar (34°50′S, 55°56′W), in coastal dpto. Canelones, southern Uruguay. The specimen (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo, MNHN 6235) was a female in excellent condition, found alive the previous day by Javier Abente. Initially identified as *L. brevirostris*, careful examination by J. P. Cuello revealed that it was *P. m. macroptera* (Figs. 1–2). *P. m. macroptera* is a mid-sized,

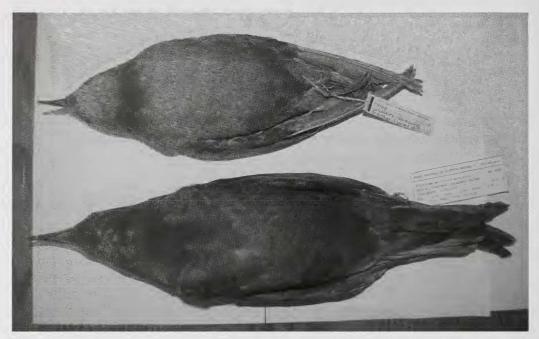


Figure 1. Ventral view of specimens of Kerguelen Petrel *Lugensa brevirostris*, La Floresta, dpto. Canelones, Uruguay, July 1973 (Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo, MNHN 4142; above) and Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma m. macroptera*, Solymar, dpto. Canelones, Uruguay, May 2003 (MNHN 6235; below) (Adrián B. Azpiroz)



Figure 2 (left). Head of Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma m. macroptera* (above), Solymar, Uruguay, May 2003 (MNHN 6235) and Kerguelen Petrel *Lugensa brevirostris*, La Floresta, dpto. Canelones, Uruguay, July 1973 (MNHN 4142; below) (Adrián B. Azpiroz)

Figure 3 (right). Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma m. macroptera*, Uruguayan waters, 1 March 2007 (Sebastián Jiménez)

long-winged, all-dark petrel with dark underwings and black feet (Brooke 2004, Onley & Scofield 2007) separable from most other dark petrels (*Pterodroma, Bulweria* and *Procellaria* spp.) by size, absence of pale underwing areas, and bare-parts coloration. This applies to all potential confusion species in the south-west Atlantic (*L. brevirostris*, dark-morph Trindade Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana* and Atlantic Petrel *P. incerta*). The specimen lacks the pale face (including forehead, chin and base of bill) characteristic of *P. m. gouldi*. Measurements (mm) are: bill length (exposed culmen) 36.7, bill depth at base 15.0 and bill depth at nail 15.2.

On 1 March 2007 a *Pterodroma* sp. was observed by SJ (Fig. 3) from a Uruguayan pelagic longline fishing vessel targeting swordfish *Xiphias gladius*, during a 30-minute count commencing at 08.10 h, at 36°04′S, 51°00′W, in Uruguayan waters (sea surface temperature 24.32°C, northerly wind and sky completely cloudy, rain during final part of count). Other species present were *c*.60 Spectacled Petrels *Procellaria conspicillata* and *c*.15 *P. incerta*. The single *Pterodroma* was observed at the onset of rain and followed the vessel for 30 minutes. At *c*.09.00 h the number of *P. incerta* doubled and photographs of the all-dark *Pterodroma* were taken (Fig. 3). A small patch of paler feathers at the base of the black bill, characteristic of *P. m. macroptera* (Brooke 2004, Onley & Scofield 2007), distinguishes it from dark-morph *P. arminjoniana* from Trindade, which has dark lores and a pale throat (Onley & Scofield 2007). Onley & Scofield (2007) stated that dark-morph *P. arminjoniana* has a reduced pale patch on the outer underwing, but has a narrow white line on the inner forewing. These features were not detected on the Uruguayan bird, which appeared similar in size or smaller than the *P. incerta* present, thereby excluding the much smaller *L. brevirostris*. It was concluded that the petrel was *P. m. macroptera*.

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Missiemuseum, Steijl, the Netherlands—the history of a little-known collection

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The Missiemuseum at Steijl, which contains *c*.1,200 ornithological mounts / skins, is not mentioned by Roselaar (2003) but deserves a place among his 'B-list' collections. On 8 September 1875, Father Arnold Janssen (1837–1909) inaugurated the Societas Verbi Divini (SVD) in response to the anti-Catholic *Kulturkampf* policy pursued by the Prime Minister of Prussia, Otto von Bismarck, in 1871–78. The first foreign mission was established at Hong Kong (1879), followed in 1882 by China's Shandong Province, or Qingdao (leased from China by Germany in 1897–1914) and in 1884 by Kaiser-Wilhelmsland, part of German New Guinea, a protectorate of the German Empire. Further missions followed in Italy (1888), Argentina (1889), Austria (1892), Togo (1892), Ecuador (1893), Brazil (1895), USA (1895) and Papua New Guinea (1896). No fewer than 47 other countries followed up until 1993.

One of the aims of the SVD was to found a museum, to provide the public with knowledge of the countries and cultures in which the Societas worked. The collection's nucleus dates from 1884 when Janssen started the Missiemuseum, financed by Monsieur von Anzen, with anthropological and natural history items from China, among them birds. It was housed in two small rooms by the mission's printing shop. The last new material was purchased in 1937. Unfortunately, specimens were neither registered nor labelled. Information concerning them has been kept in numerous papers, held in storage in the museum's attic, thus with some effort many could be adequately labelled, thereby meeting the criterion set by Roselaar (2003) of 100 well-labelled specimens for 'B-list' inclusion.

Initially, Janssen was responsible for the collections, then P. Schaaf (fl. 1885–94), but when in February 1894 the museum was enlarged Schaaf resigned. He was succeeded by Hermann auf der Heide (1865–1930) and taxidermist Philo Maier (fl. 1894–1901); Maier resigned in 1901. Thereafter, Johannes Giessen (1868–1935), known as Father Berchmans, was appointed collection manager, collaborating with auf der Heide. After the latter died, P. Schmitz (fl. 1935) and then P. Balkenhol (fl. 1935–37) became the museum's taxidermists. On 1 February 1931 the museum moved to its present location, with Berchmans responsible for furnishing the new museum. At present (2012) the Missiemuseum is administrated by Missiehuis St. Michaël, but has not expanded its natural history collections. Since Berchmans' death in 1934 very little concerning the displays has changed. The museum can